

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2008 and to the telephonic interview held with Examiners Kane and Barron by the undersigned, on June 4, 2008.

During the interview, no exhibits or displays were provided. Claim 1 was discussed, as were the Montville and Hachimura references. The proposed amendments discussed are the amendments provided herein to claim 1. Agreement was reached that the amendment set forth above to claim 1 would make claim 1 allowable over the Montville and Hachimura references.

The general thrust of the arguments during the interview were that the subject matter of claim 1 requires that the private key be associated with the service, and that the Montville private keys are associated with the senders. The Examiners indicated that, interpreted broadly, the Montville private keys are "associated" with the service since the service stores the private keys. The Examiners have agreed that these amendments would result in claim 1 being allowable over Montville and Hachimura.

In addition to the amendments to claim 1, the remaining claims were amended to be consistent with claim 1 as amended.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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/ASH/
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